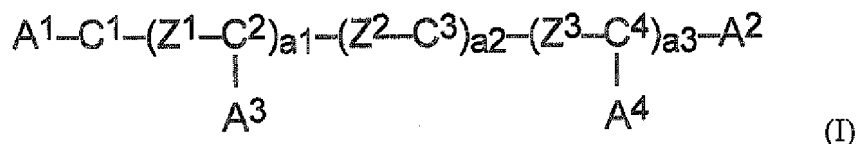


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A mesogenic, cross-linkable mixture comprising:
 - i) a cross-linkable liquid crystalline host comprising at least one cross-linkable liquid crystalline compound, and
 - ii) at least one chiral or achiral rod shaped additive component, wherein said additive component has a rigid core and comprises at least two fused or linked, optionally substituted, non-aromatic, aromatic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups, and also comprises at least one optionally substituted alkyl residue, and at least one polymerizable group and wherein the additive component has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 40 °C or lower.
2. (original): A mixture according to claim 1, wherein the additive component has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 20 °C or lower.
3. (original): A mixture according to claim 1, wherein the additive component has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 0 °C or lower.
4. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 having a clearing temperature of 30 °C or higher.
5. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 having a clearing temperature of 50 °C or higher.
6. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the liquid crystalline host has a clearing temperature of 50 °C or higher.
7. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the additive component is a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

A^1 to A^4 are independently from each other hydrogen, a polar group such as nitro, cyano, a halogen, an optionally substituted methyl group, or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group of 2 to 40 C-atoms, in which one or more C-atoms may be replaced by a heteroatom, in such a way that oxygen atoms are not linked to one another,

with the proviso that at least one of A^1 to A^4 comprises a polymerizable group,

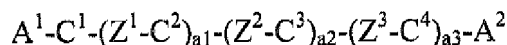
C^1 to C^4 are independently from each other optionally substituted non-aromatic, aromatic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups, preferably connected to each other at the opposite positions via the bridging groups Z^1 to Z^3 ,

Z^1 to Z^3 are independently from each other -CH(OH)-, -CO-, -CH₂(CO)-, -SO-, -CH₂(SO)-, -SO₂-, -CH₂(SO₂)-, -COO-, -OCO-, -COCF₂-, -CF₂CO-, -S-CO-, -CO-S-, -SOO-, -OSO-, -SOS-, -CH₂-CH₂-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂O-, -CH=C H-, -C≡C-, -CH=CH-COO-, -OCO-CH=CH-, -CH=N-, -C(CH₃)=N-, -N=N- or a single covalent bond,

a_1 , a_2 and a_3 are independently from each other integers from 0 to 3, such that

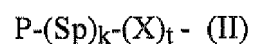
$$1 \leq a_1 + a_2 + a_3 \leq 3,$$

with the proviso that the sequence:



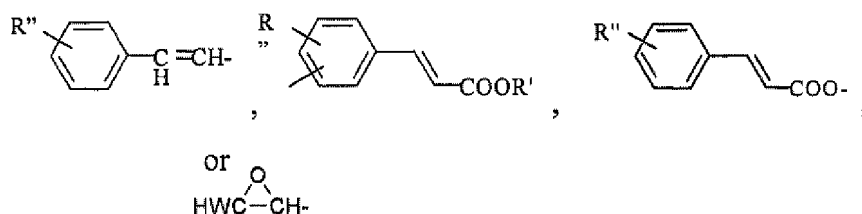
describes the long molecular axis of the rod shaped additive components.

8. (original): A mixture according to claim 7, wherein the additive component is a compound of formula (I), wherein at least one of A^1 to A^4 includes a polymerizable group, selected from a residue of formula (II):



wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group selected from groups comprising $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{O}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{COO}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{Ph})-\text{COO}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{COO}-\text{Ph}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{Ph})-\text{CONH}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{COOR}')-\text{CH}_2-\text{COO}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{OOC}-$, $(\text{Ph})-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $\text{CH}_3-\text{CH}=\text{N}-(\text{CH}_2)_{m1}-$, $\text{HO}-$, $\text{HS}-$, $\text{HO}-(\text{CH}_2)_{m1}-$, $\text{HS}-(\text{CH}_2)_{m1}-$, $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2)_{m1}\text{COO}-$, $\text{HS}(\text{CH}_2)_{m1}\text{COO}-$, $\text{HWN}-$, $\text{HOC}(\text{O})-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}-\text{Ph}-(\text{O})_{m2}$,



wherein:

W is H, F, Cl, Br or I or a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

$m1$ is an integer having a value of from 1 to 9,

$m2$ is an integer having a value of 0 or 1,

R' is a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

R'' is a C_{1-6} alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I,

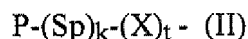
Sp is an optionally substituted straight or branched C_{1-30} alkylene group, in which one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups may be replaced by a heteroatom and/or by a polar group and/or it is optionally possible that one or more carbon-carbon single bond(s) is/are replaced by a carbon-carbon double or a triple bond,

k is an integer having a value of from 0 to 4,

X is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{CO})-$, $-\text{SO}-$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{SO})-$, $-\text{SO}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2(\text{SO}_2)-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{CO}-\text{S}-$, $-\text{SOO}-$, $-\text{OSO}-$, $-\text{SOS}-$, $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{OCH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, or a single bond,

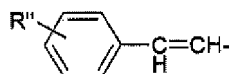
t is an integer having a value of 0 or 1.

9. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 to and 8, wherein at least one of A^1 to A^4 of formula (I) is a group of formula (II):



wherein:

P is a polymerizable group such as $CH_2=CW-$,
 $CH_2=CW-O-$, $CH_2=CW-COO-$ or



wherein:

W is H, CH_3 , F, Cl, Br or I,

R'' is a C_{1-6} alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I.

Sp is a C_{1-22} branched or straight-chain alkylene group, in which one or more $-CH_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from $-O-$, $-CH(OH)-$, $-SO_2-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-OCO-O-$,

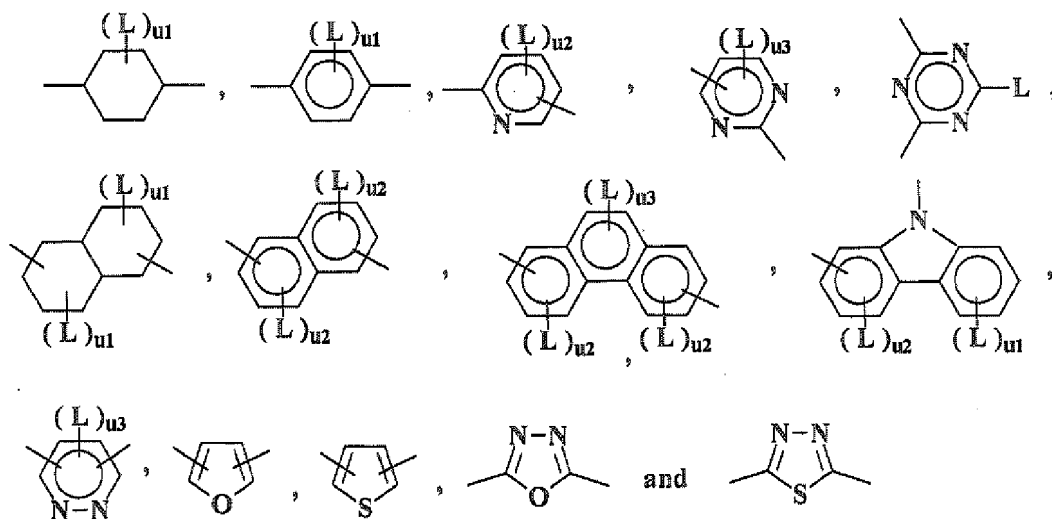
$-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-(CF_2)_r-$, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other, and wherein r is an integer between 1 and 10,

k is 1,

X is $-O-$, $-CO-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, or a single bond, more preferably $-O-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$ or a single bond,

t is 1.

10. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any one of claims 7 to 9~~ and 8, wherein C^1 to C^4 are preferably selected from:



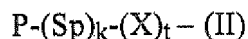
wherein:

- L is $-\text{CH}_3$, $-\text{COCH}_3$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{CN}$ or halogen,
 u_1 is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4,
 u_2 is 0, 1, 2, or 3,
 u_3 is 0, 1, or 2.

11. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 to 10 and 8, wherein:

C^1 to C^4 are selected from optionally substituted cyclohexyl or cyclohexylene, phenyl or phenylene, naphthyl or naphthylene or phenanthryl or phenanthrylene,

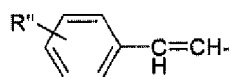
A^1 to A^4 independently from each other is hydrogen, a polar group such as cyano, nitro, a halogen, or a group of formula (II)



in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as

$\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{O}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{COO}-$ or



wherein:

W is H, CH_3 , F, Cl Br or I,

R'' is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy,
cyano, F, Cl, Br or I,

Sp is a C₁₋₂₂ branched or straight-chain alkylene group, in which one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH(OH)-, -SO₂-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -(CF₂)_r-,

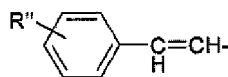
with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other, and wherein r is an integer between 1 and 10,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

with the proviso that at least one of A¹ to A⁴ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO- or



wherein:

W is H, CH₃, F, Cl, Br or I,

R'' is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I.

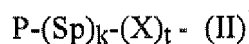
12. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 ~~to 11~~ and 8, wherein:

A¹ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A² has the meaning of formula (II),



in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
as $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-O}-$ or $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-COO}-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp is a branched $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{16}$ alkylene group, optionally
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{16}$

alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy
group, wherein one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced,
independently, by one or more groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, with the proviso that
no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

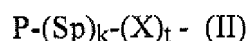
X is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, or a single bond,
more preferably $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$ or a single bond,

t is 1

A^4 is hydrogen.

13. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 ~~to 12~~ and 8, wherein:

A^1 has the meaning of formula (II),



wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
 $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-O}-$ or $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW-COO}-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp is a branched $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{16}$ alkylene group, optionally
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or group, or is a straight $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{16}$ alkylene group,
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more
 $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or

more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

A² comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,
CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

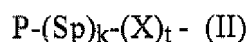
wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A⁴ is hydrogen.

14. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 to ~~13~~ and 8, wherein:

A¹ has the meaning of formula (II),



wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O- or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₃-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally

comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆

alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond,
more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

A^3 comprises a polymerizable group such as $CH_2=CW-$,
 $CH_2=CW-O-$, or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

A^4 is hydrogen.

15. (currently amended): A mixture according to any one of claims 7 to 14 and 8, wherein:

A^2 has the meaning of formula (II),

$P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t$ - (II)

in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
 $CH_2=CW-$, $CH_2=CW-O-$ or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp is a branched C_3-C_{16} alkylene group, optionally

comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C_2-C_{16}

alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one
or more $-CH_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one
or more groups selected from $-O-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms
are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is $-O-$, $-CO-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, or a
single bond, more preferably $-O-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$ or a single bond,

t is 1,

A^3 comprises a polymerizable group such as $CH_2=CW-$,
 $CH_2=CW-O-$, or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,

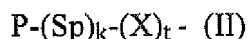
wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

A⁴ is hydrogen.

16. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 to ~~15~~ and 8, wherein:

A¹ and A² have the meaning of formula (II),



wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as

CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O- or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₃-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally

comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆

alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

A³ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,

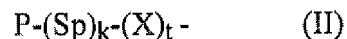
CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A⁴ is hydrogen.

17. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 to ~~16~~ and 8, wherein at least one of A¹ to A³ has the meaning of formula (II),



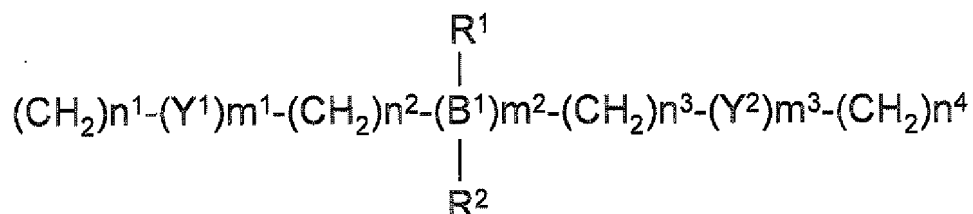
wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$,
 $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{O}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{COO}-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp has the meaning of formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

Y^1 and Y^2 each independently represent $-\text{OCO}-$ or $-\text{COO}-$,

B^1 represents C or CH ,

R^1 and R^2 each independently represent hydrogen or
a C_1 - C_{12} alkyl residue, preferably a

C_1 - C_6 alkyl residue, such as a methyl,

ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl or isopropyl residue,

$n1$, $n2$, $n3$ and $n4$ are independently integers from 0

to 15, such that $0 \leq n1 + n2 + n3 + n4 \leq 15$,

$m1$, $m2$ and $m3$ are independently integers from 0 to 3, such that

$1 \leq m1 + m2 + m3 \leq 3$ and wherein:

one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain
of (III) may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups
selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ or $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$,

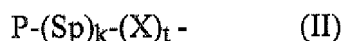
with the proviso that the carbon-carbon double bond of P is
not directly connected to the carbon atom of Y^1 or Y^2 ,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1.

18. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any~~ one of claims 7 to 17 and 8, wherein at least one of A¹ to A³ has the meaning of formula (II),



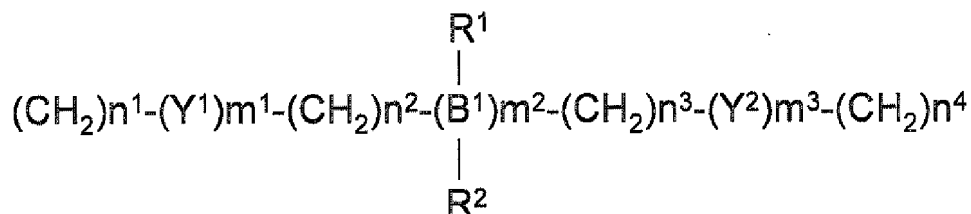
wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp has the meaning of formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

Y¹ and Y² each independently represent -OCO- or -COO-,

B¹ represents C or CH,

R¹ is hydrogen

R² represents a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or hexyl group and most preferably a methyl or ethyl

group,

n₁, n₂, n₃ and n₄ are independently integers from 0 to 15,

such that 0 ≤ n₁ + n₂ + n₃ + n₄ ≤ 15,

m₁, m₂ and m₃ are independently integers from 0 to 3,

such that 1 ≤ m₁ + m₂ + m₃ ≤ 3, and wherein:

one or more $\text{-CH}_2\text{-}$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain of (III) may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from -O- , -CH=CH- or $\text{-C}\equiv\text{C-}$,

with the proviso that the carbon-carbon double bond of P is not directly connected to the carbon atom of Y^1 or Y^2 ,

k is 1,

X is -O- , -CO- , -COO- , -OCO- , -CH=CH- , $\text{-C}\equiv\text{C-}$, or a single bond, more preferably -O- , -COO- , -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1.

19. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1 comprising further agents, such as cross-linking agents, stabilizing agents, initiators, dyes, other chiral or achiral additives and plasticizers.

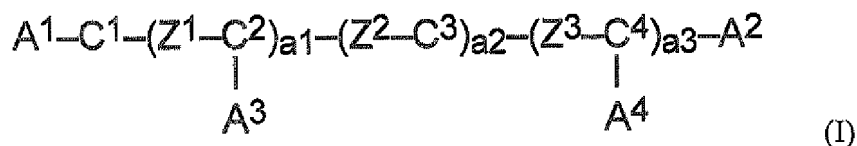
20. (currently amended): A mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1 in form of an elastomer, polymer gel, polymer network or polymer film.

21. (original): A chiral or achiral rod shaped compound, wherein said compound has a rigid core and comprises at least two fused or linked, optionally substituted, non-aromatic, aromatic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups, and also comprises at least one optionally substituted alkyl residue, and also comprises at least one polymerizable group and has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 40°C or lower.

22. (original): A compound according to claim 21, wherein the compound has a transition temperature to the isotropic state of 20°C or lower.

23. (currently amended): A compound according to one of claims 21 to and 22, wherein the compound has transition temperature to the isotropic state of 0°C or lower.

24. (currently amended): A compound according to any one of claims 21 to ~~23~~ and 22 of formula (I):



wherein:

A¹ to A⁴ are independently from each other hydrogen, a polar group such as nitro, cyano, a halogen, an optionally substituted methyl group, or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group of 2 to 40 C-atoms, in which one or more C-atoms may be replaced by a heteroatom, in such a way that oxygen atoms are not linked to one another,

with the proviso that at least one of A¹ to A⁴ comprises a polymerizable group,

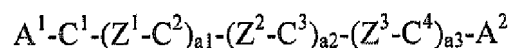
C¹ to C⁴ are independently from each other optionally substituted non-aromatic, aromatic, carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups, preferably connected to each other at the opposite positions via the bridging groups Z¹ to Z³,

Z¹ to Z³ are independently from each other -CH(OH)-, -CO-, -CH₂(CO)-, -SO-, -CH₂(SO)-, -SO₂-, -CH₂(SO₂)-, -COO-, -OCO-, -COCF₂-, -CF₂CO-, -S-CO-, -CO-S-, -SOO-, -OSO-, -SOS-, -CH₂-CH₂-, -OCH₂-, -CH₂O-, -CH=C H-, -C≡C-, -CH=CH-COO-, -OCO-CH=CH-, -CH=N-, -C(CH₃)=N-, -N=N- or a single covalent bond,

a₁, a₂ and a₃ are independently from each other integers from 0 to 3, such that

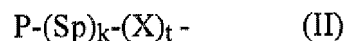
$$1 \leq a_1 + a_2 + a_3 \leq 3,$$

with the proviso that the sequence:



describes the long molecular axis of the rod shaped additive components.

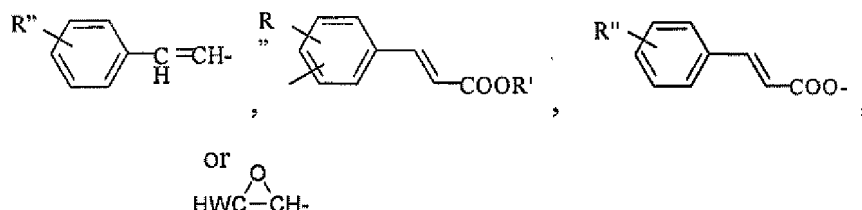
25. (original): A compound according to claim 24, wherein at least one of A¹ to A⁴ includes a polymerizable group, selected from a residue of formula (II):



wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group selected from groups comprising CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO-, CH₂=C(Ph)-COO-, CH₂=CH-COO-Ph-,

CH₂=CW-CO-NH-, CH₂=C(Ph)-CONH-, CH₂=C(COOR')-CH₂-COO-, CH₂=CH-OOC-,
(Ph)-CH=CH-, CH₃-CH=N-(CH₂)_{m1}-, HO-, HS-, HO-(CH₂)_{m1}-, HS-(CH₂)_{m1}-,
HO(CH₂)_{m1}COO-, HS(CH₂)_{m1}COO-, HWN-, HOC(O)-, CH₂=CH-Ph-(O)_{m2},



wherein:

W is H, F, Cl, Br or I or a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

m₁ is an integer having a value of from 1 to 9,

m₂ is an integer having a value of 0 or 1,

R' is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

R'' is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I,

Sp is an optionally substituted straight or branched C₁₋₃₀ alkylene group, in which one or more -CH₂- groups may be replaced by a heteroatom and/or by a polar group and/or it is optionally possible that one or more carbon-carbon single bond(s) is/are

replaced by a carbon-carbon double or a triple bond,

k is an integer having a value of from 0 to 4,

X is -O-, -S-, -NH-, -N(CH₃)-, -CH(OH)-, -CO-, -CH₂(CO)-, -SO-,

-CH₂(SO)-, -SO₂-, -CH₂(SO₂)-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-,

-S-CO-, -CO-S-, -SOO-, -OSO-, -SOS-, -CH₂-CH₂-, -OCH₂-,

-CH₂O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond,

t is an integer having a value of 0 or 1.

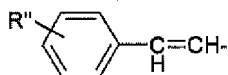
26. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 or 25~~ claim 24,

wherein at least one of A¹ to A⁴ of formula (I) is a group of formula (II):

P-(Sp)_k-(X)_t - (II)

wherein:

P is a polymerizable group such as $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{O}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{COO}-$ or



wherein:

W is H, CH_3 , F, Cl, Br or I,

R'' is a C_{1-6} alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I.

Sp is a C_{1-22} branched or straight-chain alkylene group, in which one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$, $-\text{SO}_2-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-(\text{CF}_2)_r-$,

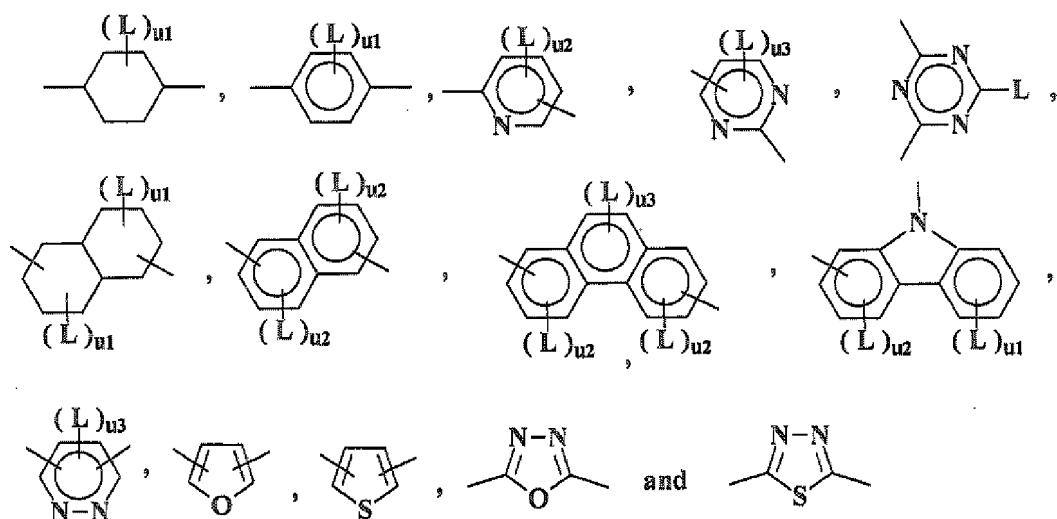
with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other, and wherein r is an integer between 1 and 10,

k is 1,

X is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, or a single bond, more preferably $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$ or a single bond,

t is 1.

27. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 26~~ claim 24, wherein C^1 to C^4 are preferably selected from:



wherein:

L being -CH₃, -COCH₃, -NO₂, -CN or halogen,

u₁ is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4,

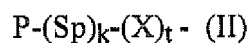
u₂ is 0, 1, 2, or 3,

u₃ is 0, 1, or 2.

28. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 24,
wherein:

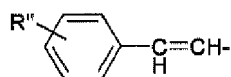
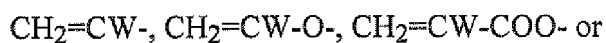
C¹ to C⁴ are selected from optionally substituted cyclohexyl or cyclohexylene, phenyl or phenylene, naphthyl or naphthylene or phenanthryl or phenanthrylene,

A¹ to A⁴ independently from each other is hydrogen, a polar group such as cyano, nitro, a halogen, or a group of formula (II),



in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as



wherein:

W is H, CH₃, F, Cl Br or I,

R'' is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy,
cyano, F, Cl, Br or I,

Sp is a C₁₋₂₂ branched or straight-chain alkylene group, in which
one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by
one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH(OH)-, -SO₂-, -COO-, -OCO-, -OCO-O-, -
CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -(CF₂)_r - ,

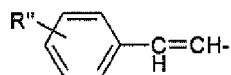
with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other, and wherein
r is an integer between 1 and 10,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond,
more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or single bond,

t is 1,

with the proviso that at least one of A1 to A4 comprises a
polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO- or



wherein:

W is H, CH₃, F, Cl, Br or I,

R'' is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, methoxy, cyano, F, Cl, Br or I.

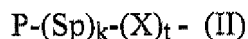
29. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 28~~ claim 24,
wherein:

A¹ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-
COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A² has the meaning of formula (II),



in which:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
 $CH_2=CW-$, $CH_2=CW-O-$ or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp is a branched C_3-C_{16} alkylene group, optionally
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight
 C_2-C_{16} alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group,

wherein one or more $-CH_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced,
independently, by one or more groups selected from $-O-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, with the proviso that
no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

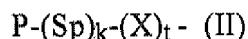
X is $-O-$, $-CO-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, or a single bond,
more preferably $-O-$, $-COO-$, $-OCO-$ or a single bond,

t is 1

A^4 is hydrogen.

30. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 29~~ claim 24,
wherein:

A^1 has the meaning of formula (II),



wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
 $CH_2=CW-$, $CH_2=W-O-$ or $CH_2=CW-COO-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp is a branched C_3-C_{16} alkylene group, optionally
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C_2-C_{16}

alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, or a single bond, more preferably $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$ or a single bond,

t is 1,

A^2 comprises a polymerizable group such as $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{O}-$, or $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{COO}-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

A^4 is hydrogen.

31. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 30~~ claim 24, wherein:

A^1 has the meaning of formula (II),

$\text{P}-(\text{Sp})_k-(\text{X})_t$ - (II)

wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-$, $\text{CH}_2=\text{CW}-\text{O}-$ or $\text{CH}_2=\text{W}-\text{COO}-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp is a branched C_3 - C_{16} alkylene group, optionally comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C_2 - C_{16} alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, wherein one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, with the proviso that no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,
X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a
single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

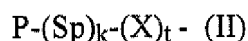
t is 1,
A³ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,
CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,
A⁴ is hydrogen.

32. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 31~~ claim 24,
wherein:

A² has the meaning of formula (II),



wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O- or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₃-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆
alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group,

wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced,
independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that
no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,
X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond,
more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,
t is 1,

A³ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,
CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

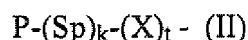
wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A⁴ is hydrogen.

33. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 32~~ claim 24,
wherein:

A¹ and A² have the meaning of formula (II),



wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as
CH₂=CW-, CH₂=CW-O- or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp is a branched C₃-C₁₆ alkylene group, optionally
comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group, or is a straight C₂-C₁₆
alkylene group, comprising at least one oxocarbonyl or carbonyloxy group,
wherein one or more -CH₂- groups present in the hydrocarbon chain may be replaced,
independently, by one or more groups selected from -O-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, with the proviso that
no two oxygen atoms are directly linked to each other,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a
single bond, more preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1,

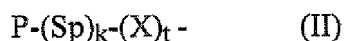
A³ comprises a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,
CH₂=CW-O-, or CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

A^4 is hydrogen.

34. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 33~~ claim 24, wherein at least one of A^1 to A^3 has the meaning of formula (II),



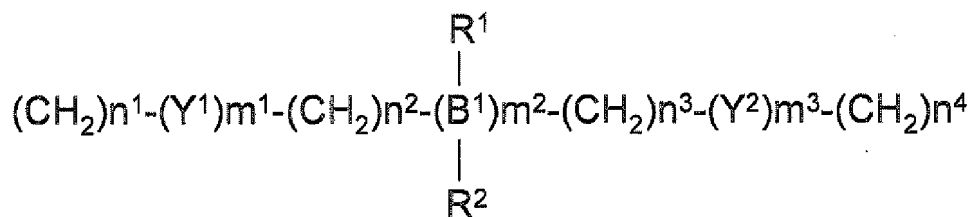
wherein:

P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as $CH_2=CW-$, $CH_2=CW-O-$, $CH_2=CW-COO-$,

wherein:

W is H or CH_3 ,

Sp has the meaning of formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

Y^1 and Y^2 each independently represent $-OCO-$ or $-COO-$,

B^1 represents C or CH,

R^1 and R^2 each independently represent hydrogen or a

C_1 - C_{12} alkyl residue, preferably a C_1 - C_6 alkyl

residue, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl, hexyl or isopropyl residue,

$n1$, $n2$, $n3$ and $n4$ are independently integers from 0 to 15, such

that $0 \leq n1 + n2 + n3 + n4 \leq 15$,

$m1$, $m2$ and $m3$ are independently integers from 0 to 3, such that

$1 \leq m1 + m2 + m3 \leq 3$ and

wherein

one or more $-CH_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain of (III) may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from $-O-$, $-CH=CH-$ or $-C\equiv C-$,

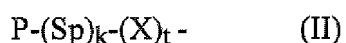
with the proviso that the carbon-carbon double bond of P is
not directly connected to the carbon atom of Y¹ or Y²,

k is 1,

X is -O-, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, or a single bond, more
preferably -O-, -COO-, -OCO- or a single bond,

t is 1.

35. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 34~~ claim 24,
wherein at least one of A¹ to A³ has the meaning of formula (II),



wherein:

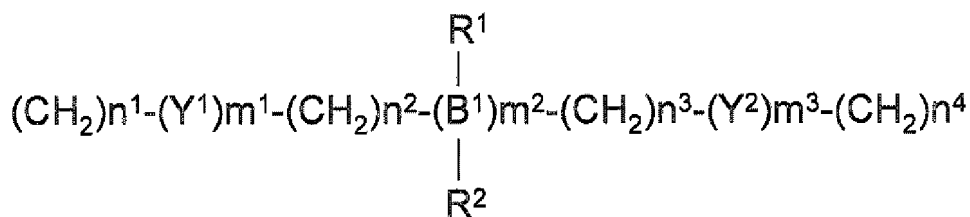
P is hydrogen or a polymerizable group such as CH₂=CW-,

CH₂=CW-O-, CH₂=CW-COO-,

wherein:

W is H or CH₃,

Sp has the meaning of formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

Y¹ and Y² each independently represent -OCO- or -COO-,

B¹ represents C or CH,

R¹ is hydrogen,

R² represents a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or

hexyl group and most preferably a methyl or ethyl group,

n₁, n₂, n₃ and n₄ are independently integers from 0 to 15, such that 0 ≤ n₁

+ n₂ + n₃ + n₄ ≤ 15,

m_1 , m_2 and m_3 are independently integers from 0 to 3, such that $\leq m_1 + m_2 + m_3 \leq 3$, and wherein

one or more $-\text{CH}_2-$ groups present in the hydrocarbon chain of (III) may be replaced, independently, by one or more groups selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ or $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$,

with the proviso that the carbon-carbon double bond of P is not directly connected to the carbon atom of Y^1 or Y^2 ,

k is 1,

X is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, or a single bond, more preferably $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, $-\text{OCO}-$ or a single bond,

t is 1.

36. (currently amended): Use of a chiral or achiral rod shaped compound according to ~~any one of claims 21 to 35~~ claim 21 for the preparation of mesogenic polymer mixtures according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1.

37. (currently amended): Polymer networks prepared from a mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1.

38. (currently amended): Liquid crystalline polymer films prepared from a mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1.

39. (original): Use of a polymer network according to claim 37 or a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38 for the preparation of unstructured or structured optical and electro-optical components and multilayer systems.

40. (currently amended): Use of a mixture according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1 for the preparation of an elastomer, polymer gel, polymer network or polymer film.

41. (currently amended): Use of a polymer network according to claim 37 ~~or of a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38~~ for the manufacture of devices such as waveguides, optical gratings, filters, retarders, polarizers, piezoelectric cells or thin film exhibiting non-linear optical properties.

42. (currently amended): Optical or electro-optical components comprising a polymer network according to claim 37 ~~or a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38.~~

43. (new): Use of a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38 for the manufacture of devices such as waveguides, optical gratings, filters, retarders, polarizers, piezoelectric cells or thin film exhibiting non-linear optical properties.

44. (new): Optical or electro-optical components comprising a liquid crystalline polymer film according to claim 38.